(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) whether his Ministry has taken any further steps to check retrenchment of workers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. According to the provisional information available with the Labour Bureau, in the past few years, the Number of workers retrenched has increased from 2503 in 1999 to 3651 in 2001. However, the number of establishements resorting to retrenchement has declined from 176 to 132 over the same period. Safeguards are provided under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to regulated retrenchment of workers.

The Ministry takes every care to ensure that permission is granted for retrenchment only in genuine cases. For example, since 1999, in 50 per cent of the cases permission has not been granted where applications have been filed by the employers for retrenchment of workers.

Panel for the hire and Fire Policy

1717. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 61 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 2002 and State:

(a) whether Government have formed a panel for checks on hire and fire in Labour Policy as reported in the 'Times of India' dated the 11th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the composition thereof; and

(c) by when this panel is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Labour Reforms

†1718. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international investors and industry are putting pressures on Government to bring a change in the field of labour reforms which could suit their Interests;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.